

The Independent.

J. W. ROBERTS,

Devoted to Agriculture, Mechanics, Arts, News, and General Literature.

Editor and Proprietor.

VOLUME V. NUMBER 1.

OSKALOOSA, KANSAS SEPTEMBER 3, 1864.

WHOLE NUMBER. 209.

Selected Poetry.

LOVE IS EVERYWHERE.

The air is filled with gentle songs—
An under song of wooing—
As the leaf-cushion of woods o'erflow
With the sound of the ring dove cooling.
In nature's dearest haunts,
I hear a voice that chants:
"Why should the earth grow old with care,
Since Love, sweet Love, is everywhere?"

To me it comes at night, if I listen well,
Music in Heaven ringing,
And amid the stars a melody,
As of angel voices singing:
For the spirit who, in the spheres of light,
Have made their happy dwelling,
To each other, across the depths of space,
Their tales of love are telling.

The sunbeams leave their glowing throats,
And whisper love to the flowers;
The birds pour out in their strains,
As they sit in their rose-crown'd bowers.
When the breeze sweeps merrily
Through the boughs of a waving tree,
I hear a gentle voice declare
That Love, sweet Love, is everywhere.

In the moaning thunder of the waves,
That dash on some rocky shore,
Or the tumbled flow of the angry tide,
When a tempest's rage is o'er—
In murmured music of the brook,
As it rushes the sea to gale,
Or the silence of the silent pool,
Of the softly falling rain—

In the gleeful laugh of the dancing spay,
From some skyward leaping fountain,
Or the careless roar of a white cascade,
In its great bound from the mountain—
There I catch on my ear
The soft, sweet, low, and clear:
"Ah, why should man ever feel despair,
Since Love, sweet Love, is everywhere?"

Selected Sketch.

THE MAY QUEEN.

BY DELLA FRENCH.

It was a bright May morning. A group of girls stood on the porch just outside the door of Madame Avercourt's boarding school.

"Tell you, girls," said May Elerton, the tallest and prettiest of them, "my dress is splendid. I say it this morning. Mrs. Morley has nearly finished it. She charges five dollars for making it. I have just ten dollars left to buy flowers with."

"Well, we have all got new dresses for the May party, and so we will have to be satisfied, even if you are the prettiest," spoke up a pretty brunette. "No, we haven't all got new dresses," said little Ella Green, the pet of the school. "Minnie Ashton will have to wear her old one, and my Morris has no white dress at all."

"Ah," said May Elerton, "that puts me in mind of what Madam said this morning. The girls have decided that she shall choose the May Queen for them. I heard her say this morning, that she should choose the one who, in the next three days should do the best deed. Now I hope that I would make a better queen than any one here, and I shall try for the place. I have a very pretty muslin dress, and I know mamma will lend me for giving it away. But I don't care; my Morris shall be it. Now I have it to all of you, whether it will not be the noblest deed of any of us or not."

"Madam will decide at question," laughed Ella, as she tried to greet Minnie Ashton, a pale, slender girl of fifteen, who had just been made her acquaintance.

"Good morning, Minnie. Is your dress in readiness for today?" asked May, a little sneering.

Minnie's blue eyes flashed, as she replied:

"May Elerton, mistress is in readiness, as you will know. It has had two summers' wear and tear. It is very hard, and I do not want great many customers to keep me in, and I will not make the burden of my sewing for money when I can do without it. I hope you understand me now."

May turned away with a low laugh, and Ella Green, the pet, stood around Minnie's neck.

"You are a good girl, Minnie," she said. "You will look just as well in your old dress as the rent will look in her gowns. If I were Madam, I know she would be May Queen."

Minnie sighed. "I thank you for your kindness, Ella, but Minnie Ashton, the poor shoemaker's daughter, will never wear it."

anywhere. If she can gain an education so as to be of some use to her parents in their old age it is all she hopes to do."

And she kissed the little prattler, and left the group. "I will go to the post office," she said, putting on her shawl. "Madam has given us three days in which to do just as we please, and I intend to help Clara Summers sew. Poor girl! she has a hard time supporting herself and invalid mother by her needle. Oh, dear! why must some be so rich and others so very poor!"

And Minnie walked out, trying to keep still, the rebellious little heart that would tell her that she was just as good as May Elerton, the merchant's daughter.

There was a letter for her at the post office. She opened it and a ten dollar bill met her view. Her father had sent it, and in speaking of it, said:

"Use it, my dear girl, to buy finery for yourself, or your mother will be displeased. She heard about the party, and saved it out of the market money to fix you up in."

"Poor, dear mother!" sighed Minnie; "she has gone without many a comfort that I might have this. I must have a dress or it will displease her. Won't May Elerton be surprised?"

"What at?" asked a laughing voice behind, and turning, she saw May and Ella but a short distance from her. Minnie blushed scarlet.

"Wait and see," was her rather ungracious answer.

"I can do that," May returned. "I am just going to buy flowers. Do come with me and help select them. You have an excellent taste I hear."

"I will go with pleasure," Minnie said; for it occurred to her that May was doing this to torment her, and she resolved that May should not know she was tormented.

"Of course you will come with me. Women like to go where finery is, even if it is not for them."

She spoke with a hardly concealed sneer, but Minnie appeared not to notice it.

"Of course we all love the beautiful," she said, quietly.

"Ah, you are a worshiper of the beautiful," put in Ella.

"I never knew an ugly person who was not," May said, looking away from her.

A bitter retort arose to Minnie's lips, but she did not give it utterance. She had a champion in little Ella.

"I don't think Minnie is ugly," she said. "She is not beautiful, but she is good, and those who are good are more beautiful to those who know them."

May was silenced. She knew that she was beautiful, but far from good. They walked on in silence. Presently they came to where a child was seated on a doorstep, crying bitterly.

"What is the matter?" asked the impulsive May.

"Oh," sobbed the child, "mother is sick and we owe two months' rent. The man whose house we live in is going to turn us out, but to day a kind lady let mother have the money. She was too kind to carry it and so sent me; and I lost it."

"I have lost it, little girl?"

"Ten dollars," answered the child. "In her pocket went May's hand, and out came a purse. The child's face brightened."

"I can't," said May thoughtfully. "I must have the flowers. Think of a May Queen without flowers!" and the purse went back unopened.

The child's tears began to flow again. Ella stepped forward and put some money in the little one's hand.

"Here are a few dimes," said she. "I wish I had more, but I have spent my month's allowance."

"They will buy us some food, but will not save us from the street," said the child, clanking her hand tightly over them. "I thank you very much."

"Come, girls, let's go," said May, whoe conscience smote her.

"Upon second thought I think I will not accompany you," said Minnie. "I have other business to which I must attend. Please excuse me."

"You are reasonable," May returned; and taking Ella's arm she passed on. Minnie now spoke to the child.

"Get up, my child, and I will go with you to the landlord."

"Will you pay him," asked the child suddenly.

"Perhaps so," said Minnie.

In a few minutes they were at the landlord's house. She found there that the child's mother owed him ten dollars, and the unfeeling man was actually going to turn the poor woman into the street unless the money was forthcoming.

Minnie's heart was full of pity, and her ten dollars went to the cruel man.

"Won't you tell me your name?" pleaded the little one when they were again in the street.

"Minnie Ashton," was the reply.

And the child ran home to carry the rent receipts to her mother.

Minnie walked on to her friend's house, still quivering thus:

"My old dress will do. I could not wear a new one and know that I had let a human being suffer when I might have given aid. I have made two hearts happier, and what matters it about a dress?"

That evening, after Minnie returned to the school house, she thought she would read her father's letter again, and put her hand into her pocket to get it, but it was not there.

"I must have dropped it on the stairs," said she; "I am sure that I had it a moment since."

She went to look for it, but it was not to be found.

It was a pleasant scene, that grove so green in its new dress; that throne bedecked with flowers, at the foot of which Madam stood, twirling in her white hands a tiny, flowery crown; that group of girls, white-robed, and flower-decked, May Elerton, the most beautiful of all standing like a queen at their head; the tables laden with luxuries and wreathed with flowers; and the many guests waiting expectantly for what was to come.

Minnie Ashton was there, robed in her plain, white dress, unadorned by a single ornament, save the wealth of chestnut hair which fell in curls about her neck and shoulders. She felt sadly eclipsed by the gay circle, and drew out of sight as much as possible; but many eyes were upon her.

"Young ladies," said Madam, when all were sufficiently quiet, "you requested me to choose your queen; and I resolved to choose her who, in the three days preceding the day fixed for the party, should perform the noblest act. Now judge for yourselves who this one is."

One young lady heaped another who had wrangled her to make her party dress, but said young lady spoke the whole by being the first one to tell her. Another young lady, whom I will call our beauty, gave one of her dresses to a girl who was not able to buy one, a very worthy deed. One day our beauty, our pet, and a girl who has been called very homely, were walking out together. Our beauty was on her way to a store to purchase artificial flowers for her dress, and on the way was talking in a very snoring manner to the homely girl, who, she supposed, would have to wear an old dress because her parents were not able to purchase her a new one. But, though she knew it not, the homely girl had that morning received ten dollars from her parents. So on they came to where a little girl sat crying on a doorstep. The beauty inquired what the matter was. It was the old story of sickness and poverty. Ten dollars were wanted with which to pay rent, and keep a decent family from the street. Our beauty's first impulse was to relieve them, but on second thought she resolved not to do without her dress trimmings, so gave the little one nothing. Our pet, who already had her dress and trimmings, gave to the child the few dimes she had left. But the homely girl did more. She gave the money with which she thought to purchase her dress, to the cruel landlord, and appears before you to day unadorned. By her father's letter, which she accidentally dropped, and from the poor child's own lips, I learned of her noble conduct. Now, young ladies, which of these shall be queen?"

"Minnie Ashton!" shouted little Ella, clapping her hands; and Minnie Ashton was echoed by every mouth except one—May Elerton's. She was said and silent.

Minnie felt as though she were dreaming. Could it be possible that she was

to be May Queen? Presently she felt her arm grasped, and she was being led forward to the throne, while a dozen of her school-mates strewed flowers in her path. At the foot of the throne some one whispered to her to kneel. She knelt, and heard Madam make a short address, and then the crown was placed upon her head, and she was led up the flowery steps, while the gay company proclaimed her the shoemaker's daughter, "May Queen."

Miscellaneous.

Fidelity of Saying No!

How many fearful temptations would be avoided, if on all recurring occasions, we could only act in obedience to the dictates of prudence, conscience, propriety and right, and refuse the seductive offers that are made to induce in this excess or that, or to venture into some perilous, but forbidden and perilous field of enterprise! The difficulty of saying no at such times and occasions, can scarcely be realized. With the kindly heart and the true love of mankind, it is almost impossible to resist the importunities of friends and associates, even when the small voice of conscience counsels us wisely, and we feel that the path or the policy to which we are invited, is one of danger and treachery. There are two descriptions of courage, viz: that which is disposed to disregard and defy everything like physical danger, and that which induces us to set a selfish, firmly and correctly, no matter what may be the consequences, provided a principle of truth be involved.

We verily believe that many an unfortunate marriage has taken place, simply because the gentle being who was the object of frequent, continued and unending attentions, at last became impressed by the force of habit and the opinion of the world, that she was expected to accept her suitors, and thus she in a spirit of kindness and treachery, rather than of conscious seduction and choice.

How many a young man has been persuaded into the ways of error and evil, by the seductive example of some cherished companion, and his inability to resist the importunities of that companion—in brief by his inability to say no. Thus the first step has been commenced in a career of imprudence, dissipation, recklessness and ruin, and the others have followed with almost rapidity. According to the old adage, he who begins to lose, and this is true in its application to many losses, phrases and a condition of life.

But a few months since, and a merchant of this city was suddenly called upon to make a loan, and by an individual in whose character and principles he had every confidence, but with whom, nevertheless, he was in the habit of associating at convivial parties, and gay and joyous parties. At the moment the application was made, he hesitated, when the other seeing his alarm, pressed a loan and succeeded. Immediately after the transaction was completed, the merchant felt that he had made a mistake—in brief, that he had lacked the moral courage to say no—and he was convinced that the money would never be repaid. Such occurrences are by no means rare. Scarcely a day goes by, in which individual is not tempted in this way, so to speak, while another will only with a large portion of the human family, to promise, never intending to perform or to equate, and thus hold out a hope, and all because of the difficulty of saying no. The error is more prevalent than the thoughtless and treacherous belief or opinion.

There are indeed few men of the human family who are so correct, consistent, upright and honorable, as to adhere consistently to the truth under every form of appeal and pressure, and regardless of consequences. A striking instance of the force and beauty of beauty, occurred a short time since in a neighboring State. An employee of an extensive corporation was selected in an act of great carelessness, which was attended by deplorable consequences, and for the time produced a great excitement. The accused was forthwith arraigned, and inasmuch as his situation and the physical well-being of his family depended upon the result, his position was critical indeed. But he was a conscientious and true man, and instead of endeavoring to evade the responsibility, or excuse himself in any way, he honestly admitted and regretted his error, and ended at the face in a frank and manly spirit, and yet without the slightest effort or bravado, in indifference or defiance. The reader may well imagine the effect upon the hearts of his judges. They were compelled to praise his offering, but even so determined in his own mind, that so grateful a man, however capable of this single error, was too valuable to be trodden under foot because of one error, and sought the earliest opportunity to make this incident in an appropriate and practical manner. Thus, then, while falsehood and perversion would not have saved him, the moral courage which induced him to tell the truth, and to say yes, in response to the allegations preferred, at once vindicated his integrity and established his character. But many illustrations of a similar nature might be adduced. It is, we repeat, extremely difficult to say no on all proper occasions, to resist appeals, to deny favors, to avoid temptations, and to fulfill promises. And yet the habit of truth and of moral courage is much more easily acquired than the thoughtless and the vicious are apt to think. Of course we would not have a negative reply couched in offensive language. The manner in such cases is all important, and yet there are few persons, however cautious, careful and correct, who do not occasionally transgress in one of these forms, and simply because they have not sufficient moral courage to say no!

The Eruption of Sumbawa.

This was, perhaps, one of the most appalling and extraordinary fatal catastrophes that ever befell any community, and the magnitude is here fixed at its bare conception. No pen is adequate to the task of its description; for, language is too feeble to convey, fully, the overwhelming terror of the catastrophe. It commenced on the 15th of April, 1815, and did not entirely cease until the middle of July, following.

Like an emerald set in the silver of the sea, Sumbawa flourished in luxuriant forest beauty, the fairest of the Moluccas or Spice Islands. The brilliant verdure of a tropical climate, freshened by frequent showers from the clouds that hung in sublime and fantastic forms about its mountain summits, rendered it a delightful Eden. The happy natives, untroubled with toil, gathered from nature's bountiful stores what satisfied their simple appetites, of rice, or fish or fowl. Light-hearted and carefree, the winds that murmured in their forests, they dreamed not of the horrible doom that was pending over them.

Some time previous to the eruption, strange mutterings were heard, as if the mountain and deep sighs, as if a giant in travail. The lovely island suffered in conscious dread of its quick-coming destruction, and air and sea trembled and shivered in trembling sympathy.

The fatal hour arrived, and the sun, looming up from his ocean bed, looked brightly down upon a scene of beauty, soon, alas! to be blotted from his sight. A death-like stillness hung upon the waters. No ripple broke along the beach. The mountains ceased to flow, rushing back in fright to their secret sources in the earth. A stifling oppression settled down upon land and sea. Nature held her breath.

A sob, a groan from the very bosom of the rock-rimmed earth, and lo! the mountain, the pent up wrath of the volcano burst forth. The awful convulsions were distinctly heard a thousand miles off! Instantly, thick, murky clouds of smoke, ashes, and cinders obscured the sky, and sent a downy rain of cinders as appalling as life, as the waves cursed Egypt. From center to circumference, a distance of three or four hundred miles in every direction, it was darker than the darkest night. The bolts of fire, and horrible lightning, blinding as the sun, mingled glare of crimson and black, dashed through the gloom, falling only to have it more intensely poisonous. Stones, rocks, all of cinders and ashes poured down, crushing and destroying houses, villages, and towns, and submerging whole forests for forty miles around; and for hundreds of miles, the sea was so covered that ships could, with difficulty, force their way through the floating mass of cinders and ashes. So many red fires away they lay upon the water, to the depth of two feet or more. Rivers of red lava flowed unchecked down the mountain sides, burning up the very old woods, annihilating every vestige of life and beauty in their course, and wrapping large tracts of country in a pall of utter desolation. Rain and death gathered on the island in their evil embrace, and out of its twelve thousand inhabitants only twenty-six escaped! The awful harrowing particulars of their last agonies no man shall write; for, Heaven has kindly sealed them up.

A good anecdote is told of Gen. Grant. As he was in the cars on his way to the front, a newsboy came in crying out: "Life of Gen. Grant." One of the Gen. Grant's aide, pointing to the General, told the boy he presumed to ask him: "Who is Gen. Grant?" The boy, giving him a look of indignation and disgust, replied: "You must be a greeny not to know Gen. Grant!" The General, after that, of course bought his life.

No secret can be kept in the civil and world. Society is a marked ball, where every one hides his real character, and reveals it by hiding.

Endurance.

Oh! we are feeble creatures. Little less than all things can suffice to make us happy. And little more than nothing is enough to discount us.—Calverley.

It is astonishing to note how much wisdom, truth, eloquence, can often be compressed into a few little lines. Those which you have just read are mean in amount, but ponderous in import. They are like an antique ring, set with diamonds, whose worth is almost fabulous. They impress like a picture, and convince like a sermon.

Thus it is with us. Covetous, yearning, ambitious, grasping, impious, we would seize upon the whole riches of earth—had but our puny hands the power—and make them tributary to our comfort and luxury. We snatch away the mine and the crown—we would tear off the robe and the curls; content to be our own rulers, our own priests, our own dispensers. And all this time we forget that the toll which is taken at the gate of Paradise is something besides gold.

The most opulent—as a general principle—are the most unhappy. Gain brings restlessness—a fear—distrust. The rich man's coffers are full of sorrows. "What if I lose it?" is his constant query; a query that haunts his mind by day and by night—that rings in his ears amid his dignified doings, and pierces upon his pillow when it is dark. And yet, with all these discomforts, we sigh and pine for more.

Again—trifles of annoyance chase us to madness. "Is there more than nothing?" throws us into a fever of discontent, and often of anger. We cannot brook the slightest attrition with trial—we cannot endure the momentary presence of a disappointment. We cannot a path of blossoms—and the scratch of a single thorn maddens us to desperation. We demand only the easy and delightful—for their opposite we have no endurance. We seek to emulate Cleopatra, and dissolve pearls in our drinking cups, just to show that we possess them. Heavens! but how men, now-a-days, do run away with themselves.

It is time that the wings of reflection were unfolded. They have been bound and cramped too long. The bird brings much prey in its talons, when its flight is untrammelled.

They are truly wise, who, when the dangerous proclivities of the heart and mind are pointed out, do straightway appropriate the admonitions, and abide therein. He who waits along the rocky margin of the precipice, because he will walk there, shall, at last, come to destruction.—Buffalo Express.

Courting in Spain.

Should you have occasion after night to traverse the dimly lighted streets, you will not go far without brushing past a figure in an ample cloak, and with the shadowy cloak over the eyes, leaning against the iron bars. As you pass, your eyes inform you that it is conversing in a low voice with some one within, whom the darkness shrouds from observation. In all probability, you will take no further notice of the whispering pair; but if you be more curious than wise, and bestow on them more than a passing look, another beclouded figure will probably step out from some corner, and politely request you to refrain from interfering with other people's business. If this hint be not sufficient, he will prepare to encounter by other means, and by displaying his mug, if he threatens to appeal to arms. He is engaged in one of the most sacred duties of Spanish friendship. The guard from danger or discovery, or, as it is termed, *guardar las espaldas* to "guard the back" of a friend who may be playing the lover—is an office to be under taken only by a tried comrade, whose devotion and courage may be proof against the rude trials to which such a position subjects him. If the fair one be noted for her attractions, then there are rivals to be encountered, whose jealous passions, if aroused by witnessing others thus engaged, nothing would so soon appease as a thrust of a knife, given as may be supposed, without much regard to the rules of fair play. Under these circumstances, the second is summoned to stand, like the night of old, to do battle against all comers should they approach with hostile intentions. I need not add that the nocturnal meetings are a frequent occasion to brawls, and that lives are sometimes lost, and usually dangerous wounds are given and received, when knives are brought into play.

This custom, though more prevalent among the lower classes, is not entirely banished from the upper ranks of society. In a club, the mystery and romance attending it have had too many charms for Spanish lovers of every degree, ever to permit it to become the exclusive privilege of any one rank in life. It is far more congenial to his temperament than a veil of secrecy over his attachment, which, not untruly from the first, wears a certain air of romance.

People seem not to see that their opinion of the world is also a confession of character. We can only see what we are, and if we misbehave, we suspect others.

Farm and Household.

VEGETABLE OYSTER, OR SALSIFY.—This excellent plant grows like a parsnip, and is in flavor very much like fresh oysters, scrape them, and cut them round in thin slices; boil them tender in milk and water, season them well with pepper, butter and salt; make a nice toast, moistened with the gravy laid on the bottom of the dish, and pour the whole over it; you could scarcely detect the difference; there should be but a suitable quantity of the gravy, too much lessens the flavor; it is sometimes eaten up and parboiled, chopped fine, and fried in butter; the roots may be first cooked tender, then fried whole in butter. This is the very best mode in which to eat this fine vegetable. We have raised constantly for a dozen years, but never use it until about the end of October. They preserve best left in the ground like carrots, to be used whenever frost will admit of their exhibition.

WHITE BREAD AND BISCUITS.—Bread grate one-half dozen potatoes, add one quart of water, one cupful of yeast at night, and in the morning when light, add three teaspoonfuls sugar, and flour to form a dough; let rise; when light, put in salt, let it rise again and bake one-half hour. For biscuits, take some of the bread dough the morning, as such as would make loaf of bread; add one cupful of butter well; let rise, then make in a biscuit let rise, then bake.

SALLY LUX TEA BREAD.—Take stone pot, pour in one pint of sweet milk, half a tea-cupful of butter, or oil, add one quart of water, one cupful of yeast at night, and in the morning when light, add three teaspoonfuls sugar, and flour to form a dough; let rise; when light, put in salt, let it rise again and bake one-half hour. For biscuits, take some of the bread dough the morning, as such as would make loaf of bread; add one cupful of butter well; let rise, then make in a biscuit let rise, then bake.

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